"Ye souls who are bound unto Canaan, Come join in and help me to sing. The praises of my loving Jesus, My Prophet, my Priest, and my King."—376 Help Me to Sing

Maryland SHAPE NOTE DOT ORG

VOL.2 NO.4 ◥●■◆ OCT–DEC 2025

FIND FELLOW FASOLA FOLK

Welcome to our newsletter—your tunebook of news and notes for shape-note singers across Maryland and beyond! It has been a remarkable year that began with the publication of the all new *Valley Pocket Harmonist* and ends with an release of the 2025 Revision of *The Sacred Harp*.

We have also added a fourth Maryland singing to the list below! One major difference is that many of the singings are changing locations or are not meeting every month, so please do contact them for dates and locations.

We try to keep the online calendar correct, check in there as well.

Annapolis | First Saturdays / 2-4pm

Books: *The Shenandoah Harmony*, *The Valley Pocket Harmonist*
Email for details: Thomas — fasolannapolis@gmail.com

Baltimore | 2nd Mon. & 4th Tues. / 7-9:30pm

Four Hour Day Lutherie, 4305 Harford Rd., Baltimore
2nd Mon: *The Shenandoah Harmony, The Sacred Harp*
4th Tues: *The Shenandoah Harmony, The Valley Pocket Harmonist*
Email: Nora or Isaac — baltimoreshapenote@gmail.com

Brentwood | Fourth Saturdays

Books: *The Valley Pocket Harmonist*
Email for details: Jonathan — jonathaneennewton@gmail.com

Easton | Occasional Saturdays

Books: *The Shenandoah Harmony*
Email for details: Topher — hieanon+fasola@gmail.com

Other regional groups to sing with:

Abbreviations: SHC = Sacred Harp, Cooper Edition, SHD = Sacred Harp, 1991 or 2025 Edition, ShH = Shenandoah Harmony, VPH = Valley Pocket Harmonist, CHM = Christian Harmony 2010

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Capitol Hill, 3rd Wednesday, 7-9pm, SHD + ShH
- Where: Capitol Hill Presbyterian, 201 4th St SE, Washington, DC 20003
- Website: dcshapenote.squarespace.com
- Contact: Alexa Silverman, silvermanalexa@gmail.com & David Shulman, davids.wdc@gmail.com

Eckington, 2nd Sundays, ShH + VPH
- Where: Eckington neighborhood of Washington, DC, email for address
- Website: dcshapenote.squarespace.com
- Contact: Mona Lewandoski, mona.lewandoski@gmail.com
- Note: Email for address and to confirm dates. This sing takes place in a heated/air conditioned garage with water and bathroom access.

PENNSYLVANIA

Exeter/Burks County, 3rd & 4th Sundays, 5:30-8pm, SHD
- Where: 191 Meetinghouse Road, Douglassville, PA 19518
- Website: pennsylvaniasacredharp.com
- Contact: Ted Stokes, 610-689-4083 or EdwardBStokes@gmail.com

Lancaster, 1st Sunday, 3-5:30pm, SH
- Where: (email contact for location)
- Website: pennsylvaniasacredharp.com
- Contact: Elizabeth Patton, sacredharp.lanc.pa@gmail.com

Philadelphia, 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30-8:45pm SHD or ShH
- Where: DuBois-Robeson People's Center, 4515 Baltimore Ave
- Website: phillysacredharp.org
- Contact: Rachel Hall, 215-605-1621 or rachelwellshall@gmail.com

Philadelphia, 2nd Saturday, 3-5:30pm SHD
- Where: Germantown Mennonite Historic Trust, 6133 Germantown Ave
- Website: phillysacredharp.org
- Contact: Sophie Sokolov, sophiegsokolov@gmail.com

VIRGINIA

Northern Shenandoah Valley, 3rd Saturdays, 3-6pm, SHD+ShH+VPH
- Where: 2336 Salem Church Rd, Boyce, VA 22620
- Website: shenandoahharmony.com
- Contact: Kelly Macklin, skmack02@gmail.com
- Note: Stay for potluck and conversation!

Richmond, 1st Tuesday, 7-9pm & 3rd Sunday, 2-4pm, SHD + ShH
- Where: St.Giles Presbyterian Church 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226
- Website: richmondshapenote.org
- Contact: Adrienne, adrienne.e.robertson@gmail.com

Rivanna, 1st Saturday, 10-Noon, SHD + ShH + VPH
- Where: Social Hall, Unitarian Universalist; 717 Rugby Road; Charlottesville, VA 22903
- Contact: John, john.alexanderj@gmail.com

Regional All-Day Singings:

(Details may change. You can confirm and find more at SHAPENOTESINGINGS.COM)

2025

OCTOBER ◥●■◆

4 **Sadsbury Cooper Book Singing** (PA) SHC
Sadsbury Meeting, 1089 Simmontown Road, Gap, PA 17527
pennsylvaniasacredharp.com

4 **Baltimore-Washington Shenandoah H. All-Day** (MD) ShH
Annapolis Friends Meetinghouse 351 Dubois Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401
marylandshapenote.org

NOVEMBER ◥●■◆

1 **James River All-Day** (VA) SHD + ShH
St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 5200 Grove Ave, Richmond VA 23226
adrienne.e.robertson@gmail.com

DECEMBER ◥●■◆

6 **Philadelphia All-Day** (PA) ShH
St. Mary's, Hamilton Village, 3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104
pennsylvaniasacredharp.com

2026

JANUARY ◥●■◆

24–25 **Keystone Convention** (PA) SHD + CHM
The Rotunda, 4014 Walnut St, Philadelphia PA, 19104
pennsylvaniasacredharp.com

APRIL ◥●■◆

11–12 **Potomac River Convention** (MD/VA) SHD + ShH
Sat: TBA
Sun: Lacey Woods Park, 1200 N George Mason Dr, Arlington, VA 22205
dcshapenote.squarespace.com

25 **Oliver Kindig-Stokes Memorial** (PA) SHD
Hope Born in Christ Church, 2600 Marietta Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601
pennsylvaniasacredharp.com

JUNE ◥●■◆

6–7 **Northern Shenandoah Valley** (VA) SHD + ShH
110 North Church St. Berryville, VA 22611
shenandoahharmony.com

14 **Exeter All-Day Singing** (PA) SHD + ShH
Friends Meetinghouse, 191 Meetinghouse Rd, Douglassville, PA 19518
pennsylvaniasacredharp.com

AUGUST ◥●■◆

22 **Floyd County All-Day Singing (VA) SHD + ShH**
Springhouse Community School, 144 Silver Maple Ln NE, Pilot, VA 24138
chrisfromground2plate@gmail.com

THE SACRED HARP, 2025 EDITION

The Sacred Harp Publishing Company has released the newest revision of B.F.White's tunebook, and they have rethought every aspect of the book from the front cover to the back, withouth forgetting about the spine! They have secured the domain SACREDHARP.COM for an entirely refreshed website that is bustling with information about the new release. They have priced the book at $20 and they are available for purchase online at the website, but also organizers of local singings may have copies.

Asbury Church Choir Here To Present Folk Cantata

Sunday at 8 p.m., the Asbury Methodist Church Choir will present a Christmas folk cantata, 'An Appalachian Nativity" by Lewis Henry Horton.

This is the story of Christmas in music which is based on the shape note tradition. It bring back memories of the singing schools of years ago when music with shaped notes was us. There are some remote sections of the country where the tradition still lives.

Shaped notes means a primitive system of reading notes in which the singers observed various shapes of notes, such as squares and triangles rather than the position of the notes on the music staff. It also means a lively, exuberant. emotional yet sincere manner of singing. It is both folk and American.

The texts and tunes were found in the "Southern Harmony," "The Sacred Harp," and other hymn books published over 100 years ago Only a few of these hymns are included in hymn books today. They have been replaced by the evangelistic type of hymn popular today.

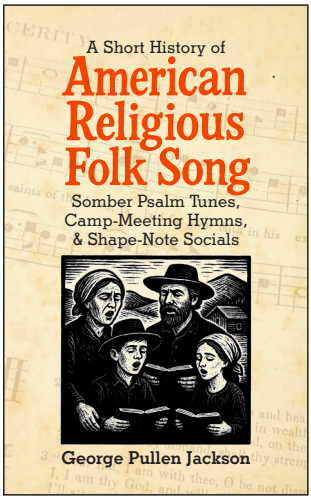
The choir, directed by Josf Privette, will make every effort to recapture something of the spirit of Christmas which our ancestors experienced in their singing, the Rev J Robert Mackey, pastor, said.

News from yesteryear: *The Salisbury Times, Fri, Dec 12, 1958*

A Short History of American Religious Folk Song:

Somber Psalm Tunes, Camp-Meeting Hymns, & Shape-Note Socials

George Pullen Jackson $15.95 5×8" 180 PAGES ISBN: 978-1-943687-37-4



From the fervent camp meetings of the Great Awakening to the rise of the Shakers and Millerites, *A Short History of American Religious Folk Song* traces the turbulent history of early American religious music. Adapted from the work of pioneering scholar George Pullen Jackson, it explores how waves of dissent—Nonconformists, frontier Baptists, Methodists, and the "Fasola Folk"—shaped a uniquely American tradition of heartfelt, communal singing. Jackson's lively research shows how revivalism, itinerant preaching, and upheaval influenced folk hymnody, from colonial psalmody to shape-note singing and early gospel music. Dramatic scenes of the Great Awakening, Shaker song, and Millerite fervor highlight the grassroots power of these traditions. This edition also includes Jackson's essay "Buckwheat Notes" on the origins and spread of shape-note singing. For anyone drawn to early American religious culture, folk traditions, or the roots of *The Sacred Harp*, it offers a vivid portrait of a musical heritage carried by ordinary voices rather than institutions.

available from the publisher in the US, or through bookstores or Amazon internationally

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